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# Nonresident Charges at California's Public Universities

A CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION FACTSHEET

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**L**IKE OTHER states, California requires that nonresident students pay higher charges than its own residents to attend its public colleges and universities.

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## Why charge nonresident students high fees?

One of the top priorities of California's public colleges and universities is to educate college-bound Californians. To ensure their accessibility to California residents, the State does not charge them tuition for the direct cost of instruction at the University of California or the California State University. Instead it charges them only fees that help support the cost of student services not directly related to instruction. On the other hand, the State charges nonresidents both tuition and fees to help pay for the direct costs of instruction as well as student services.

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## Who are nonresident students?

California defines nonresident students for tuition purposes as any students who (1) have not resided in California for at least one year and one day prior to enrolling in a college or university, and (2) do not intend to make California their home. If students are in California strictly for the purpose of obtaining an education, and not with the intention to make it their home, under State law they are not supposed to gain residency status for the purposes of tuition regardless of how long they stay in the State.

In certain cases, nonresident students can obtain exemptions that waive or reduce their nonresident tuition and fees. These exemptions include military personnel, children of fire or police personnel killed in the line of duty, exchange students, and some others. Institutions have some discretion over implementing these exemptions.

## What does the University of California charge nonresident students?

For 1992-93, the University is charging nonresident undergraduates \$7,699 tuition plus an average of \$3,044 in fees per campus for a total average charge of \$10,743. According to the University, this total charge falls in the middle of the four other public universities with which it compares itself in terms of faculty salaries and is \$555 higher than the average of the four:

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	\$14,571
University of Virginia	10,826
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	7,970
State University of New York at Buffalo	<u>7,385</u>
Average of these four universities	\$10,188

The University charges all nonresident students the same tuition regardless of the number of units they take. In determining the level of this tuition, the University considers three factors: (1) the marginal cost of enrolling one more full-time-equivalent student; (2) the nonresident tuition charged by 22 other major state universities; and (3) the expected change in such economic indices as the Consumer Price Index. As a result of using these factors, the University does not charge nonresidents the full cost of their instruction, which was estimated for 1990-91 at \$12,750.

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## What does the California State University charge nonresident students?

The California State University is charging its 1992-93 full-time nonresident undergraduates \$7,414 in tuition plus an average of \$1,452 student fees for a total of \$8,856. That total charge of \$8,856 is higher than all but one of the 15 public institutions with which it compares itself for faculty salaries and \$1,713 higher than the average of the 15, which is \$7,143:

University of Connecticut	\$10,374	<p>The statutory methodology used to determine what the State University charges nonresident tuition is supposed to be based on the State's annual support to its instruction and academic support budget, divided by its number of full-time equivalent students. The State University uses that amount to set the tuition level for full-time nonresident students and then assigns tuition based on the number of units in which students enroll by dividing the full-time-equivalent tuition figure by 15 to obtain the per-unit charge. However, the actual tuition charge is higher than called for by this methodology</p> <hr/> <p><b>What happens to the nonresident charges that the universities collect?</b></p> <p>Nonresident tuition revenues offset the General Fund revenues of the two universities, meaning that the State lets them keep the funds but considers the projected amount of those revenues in determining their General Fund appropriations.</p>
George Mason University (Virginia)	8,604	
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	8,082	
University of Colorado, Denver	7,959	
North Carolina State University	7,902	
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	7,679	
Cleveland State University	7,470	
Illinois State University	7,425	
Rutgers College, Rutgers		
The State University of New Jersey	7,410	
Arizona State University	6,996	
State University of New York, Albany	6,782	
University of Nevada, Reno	5,680	
University of Texas, Arlington	5,376	
Wayne State University	5,238	
Georgia State University	<u>4,172</u>	
Average of these 15 institutions	\$7,143	
These different charges are graphically displayed below.		

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*Average Cost of Tuition and Fees for Nonresident Undergraduate Students at the California State University and Its Fifteen Public Faculty Salary Comparison Institutions, 1992-93*